

PROTOCOL FOR FIELD-TESTING  
OF METHAMPHETAMINE, AMPHETAMINE,  
MDMA, AND MDA

The Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory in Seattle has approved a protocol for field tests for methamphetamine, amphetamine, MDMA, and MDA. This protocol offers our best assurance that field tests for these drugs are acceptably accurate. Police agencies are urged to begin using this protocol when suspected methamphetamine, amphetamine, MDMA, or MDA are seized. The King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office will file charges based on positive field tests obtained with this protocol. This will speed up the filing of cases and reduce the burden on the Crime Laboratory.

All of these field tests are produced by ODV Incorporated and are commonly used by law enforcement. Other manufacturers might produce similar testing kits. If you want to substitute another manufacturers testing kit for the ODV tests suggested below, please contact the Crime Lab for their approval. The crime lab is currently running tests on other manufacturers' field test that are also commonly used to insure they produce similar results.

For suspected methamphetamine and amphetamine:

Methamphetamine and amphetamine usually come in powder form. This usually distinguishes it from MDMA and MDA, which usually come in tablet or capsule form. To avoid false positives, field tests for methamphetamine and amphetamine should include both the Marquis Reagent test and the Secondary Amine test.

1. The Marquis Reagent test (ODV #7602) will turn an orange color that gradually turns to brown for methamphetamine and amphetamine. It will not react to ephedrine. This test will turn an instant black for MDMA and MDA. This test will turn violet for heroin.
2. The Secondary Amine test or Sodium Nitroprusside test (ODV #7623) will turn a deep navy blue for methamphetamine and MDMA. It will not react to amphetamine, ephedrine, or MDA.
3. If your substance turns the Marquis Reagent test orange that fades to brown, you almost certainly have either methamphetamine or amphetamine. If your substance then turns the Secondary Amine test a deep navy blue, you have methamphetamine. If your substance does then not react to the Secondary Amine test, it is amphetamine.

For suspected MDMA and MDA:

MDMA and MDA usually comes in tablet or capsule form. This distinguishes it from methamphetamine and amphetamine, which usually come in powder form. To avoid false positives, field tests for MDMA and MDA should include both the Marquis Reagent test and the Secondary Amine tests.

1. The Marquis Reagent test (ODV #7602) will instantly turn black for MDMA or MDA. It will not react to ephedrine. This test will turn orange that fades to brown for methamphetamine and amphetamine. This test will turn violet for heroin.
2. The Secondary Amine test or Sodium Nitroprusside test (ODV #7623) will turn a deep navy blue for MDMA and will not react for MDA.
3. If your substance turns the Marquis Reagent test instantly black, you almost certainly have either MDMA or MDA. If your substance then turns the Secondary Amine test a deep navy blue, you have MDMA. If your substance does then not react to the Secondary Amine test, you have MDA.